

[2 August, 2001]

RAJYA SABHA

tune with the demand of the labour market (iii) Inadequate investments in skills training.

Data in respect of employment obtained by educated youth through various schemes are not maintained. However placement made through employment exchanges is available. Only a fraction of the total vacancies in Government and public sector undertakings are filled up through Employment Exchanges. The placement of educated made through Employment Exchanges during 1994 to 1998 for the country as a whole and in Meghalaya was as under:

Year	All India placement of educated (in thousand)	Placement of educated in Meghalaya
1994	101.7	101
1995	103.6	62
1996	111.3	66
1997	137.9	63
1998	95.9	50

New Pension Scheme for Government Employees

*173. SHRI GAYA SINGH:

SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are considering a new pension scheme for the Central Government employees who would be joining service from October this year;

(b) if so, the details thereof and reasons therefor; and

(c) what other reforms are being contemplated with regard to retired and retiring persons?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PENSIONS AND PENSIONERS WELFARE OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The Finance Minister in the Union Budget for 2001-02 had stated that as the Central Government pension liability had reached unsustainable proportions. He proposed to set up a High Level Expert Group on Pensions. Accordingly, the Government have set up a High Level Expert Group to review the existing pension system and to provide a road map for the next steps to be taken by the Government in respect of a new pension programme based on defined contributions. Other reforms, if any, are linked to the receipt of Recommendations of the High Level Expert Group.

Upgradation of State Roads in Orissa

*174. SHRI ANANTA SETHI: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the recommendations made by the Pande Committee with regard to upgradation of State Roads in Orissa;

(b) the Inter-State Roads in the State which are proposed to be upgraded as National Highway;

(c) whether upgradation of the State road from Gopalpur (Orissa) to Raipur (Chhattisgarh) as National Highway is pending consideration of the Central Government; and

(d) if so, the steps taken in this direction?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS [MAJOR GENERAL (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI]: (a) and (b) National Transport Policy Committee chaired by Shri B.D. Pande in its report published in May, 1980 had *inter-alia* recommended for upgradation of following Inter State Roads in Orissa as National Highways:

(iii) Khargpur to Balasore.

(iv) Berhampur to Raipur.